

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A data exchange system over a data transfer network (2) between a receiver station (6) and a data (I*) server (4) with conditional access, in which the data exchanges over the network (2) are managed and authorized by a control server (20), wherein said control server (20) is associated with:

- means for access to at least two different user management servers (14);
- automatic means (7, 22, 24) forming a catalog of usable access—payment instruments, the payment instruments being usable and accessible by a user of said receiver station (6) for the selection, by this user, of one of these access—payment instruments, each of said access—payment instruments being associated with a respective user management server (14) each respective user management server providing credit or billing data associated with the respective payment instrument;
- means for exchanging information with the user management server (14) associated with the selected access—payment instrument to receive the credit or billing data associated with the selected payment instrument;

- automatic means (26) for determining corresponding parameters for control of the data exchanges over said network
- (2) corresponding to the credit or billing data; and
- automatic means (28) of data exchange control over this network (2) according to the parameters thus determined.

2. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means forming a catalog of usable access-payment instruments comprise:

- storage means (22) comprising a predetermined list of access-payment instruments (10) authorized for access to said conditional access data (I*);
- data acquisition means (7, 9) relating to the constitution and operation of the system and of the elements composing it; and
- means (24) of establishment of the catalog of at least two usable access-payment instruments from at least said list of authorized instruments and of said acquired data relating to the system.

3. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said acquisition means comprise means of analysis (7) of the receiver station, suitable for delivering:

- data relating to the nature of the receiver station (6); and/or

- data relating to the exchange capabilities of the receiver station (6).

4. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said acquisition means comprise means of connection (9) between the receiver station (6) and the network, suitable for delivering:

- data relating to the means of connection between the receiver station (6) and the network (2); and/or
- data relating to the time of the exchanges.

5. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said control server (20) is associated with means (36) of remote interrogation of said connection means (9) to obtain said data.

6. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means (26) of determining the exchange control parameters are connected to means (22) of storing data concerning conditions of access to said data with conditional access (I*) and to means (16) of storing exchange authorization data (18) associated with the selected access-payment instrument to establish said exchange control parameters.

7. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said means (26) of determination of the exchange control parameters are also connected to means (8) of supervision of the operation of the receiver station (6), in order to receive, from said means, data relating to the state of activity and/or to the operation of said receiver station (6).

8. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said means (8) of supervision are formed by software means initially stored in the system and transmitted to said receiver station (6) on which they reside throughout the data exchanges.

9. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said exchange authorization data associated with the selected access-payment instrument (10) correspond to one of the elements in the group consisting:

- of temporal credit data;
- of monetary credit data;
- of fixed charge credit data;
- of data volume credit data; and
- of billing data.

10. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 6, wherein it comprises a user management server (14) associated with the selected access-payment instrument (10) comprising at least one database (16) containing said exchange authorization data associated with the access-payment instruments (10).

11. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said user management server is a server of a provider of access to said data transfer network (2) connecting said receiver station (6) to said network (2).

12. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said user management server (14) is a server controlling the physical means of connection of the receiver station (6) to the data transfer network (2).

13. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 10, further comprises:

means of determining a user identifier (12) associated with said access-payment instruments (10) in order to allow the identification by said user management server (14) of a corresponding user account.

14. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said means of determining a user identifier (12) are automatic means of identification of the receiver station (6).

15. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said means of determining a user identifier (12) are means of manually inputting an identifier.

16. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 6, wherein it comprises means (19) of debiting said exchange authorization data (18), associated, thanks to said user identifiers (12), with said used ~~access-payment~~ instrument (10), in order to debit these data (18) according to the data exchanges.

17. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein said debiting means comprise a telephone debiting server (32) connected to another network (30) of the telephone type, said server (32) being accessible by said control server (20), through a programmable call controller (34) and the user management server (14).

18. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said data exchange control means (28) are suitable for being interposed between said data server (4) and said receiver station (6) in order directly to control all the data exchanges between them.

19. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said data exchange control means (28) are interrogated periodically by said receiver station (6) in order to transmit to it or not an authorization for access to the data of said data server (4).

20. (currently amended) A system for controlling the exchange of data between entities on a network, the system comprising:

a receiver station for the viewing content of instruments stored on a network;

a data server, the data server containing instruments to be retrieved for viewing;

at least two separate management servers for providing credit or billing data associated with a corresponding payment instrument
~~instrument storing access instruments thereon, each of the access instruments being associated with a respective management server;~~
and

a control server for controlling the exchange between the receiver station and the data server via a catalogue of usable access-payment instruments, each of the usable payment instruments being associated with a respective management server retrieved from the at least two separate management servers, and being usable and accessible by the user of the receiver station, the control server determining a data exchange between the receiver station and the data server based on exchange control parameters determined from the credit or billing data retrieved from the management server corresponding to ~~of~~ a selected payment access-instrument, wherein the selected access-payment instrument is selected by the user of the receiver station from the catalog of usable payment access-instruments.